



# Pandemic Flu Planning Business Survival Tips

An estimated 25% of businesses do not reopen following a major disaster such as a pandemic, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Business planning for pandemic influenza is essential to minimize a pandemic's impact.

Flu spreads as quickly in workplaces as it does in schools and other group settings. Flexible sick leave policies and alternative work schedules:

- Help prevent sick employees from spreading the flu in the workplace.
- Allow employees to continue work at home while caring for sick family.
- Help your business continue to operate.
- Protect the health of the entire community.

Keeping your employees healthy keeps your business healthy. These steps should be followed all the time, not just during a flu outbreak:

- Advise all employees to stay home if they're sick until their fever is gone for at least 24 hours without help from medication.
- Encourage employees to cover their coughs and sneezes and dispose of tissues in the trash.
- Encourage employees to wash hands often or use hand sanitizer.
- Separate sick employees and ask them to go home.
- Routinely clean commonly touched surfaces such as phone receivers, door knobs, light switches, etc.
- Cross-train your staff to perform essential functions so your business can continue operating during high employee absentee periods.
- Encourage employees to get their seasonal flu vaccinations.

For the full version of the CDC's Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/guidance/>



**STOP GERMS -- STAY HEALTHY!**

